

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SANAA 00401 131156 Z

13

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CCO-00 /026 W

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O P 131005 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SANAA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1868

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TELAVIV IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ASMARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY 027

S E C R E T SANAA 401

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, YE, ET, IS

SUBJECT: ANTIME STORY ON ALLEGED ISRAELI
OCCUPATION ZUQAR ISLAND

DEPT PASS CAIRO

REF: SANAA 397; STATE 45047

1. DCM DELIVERED TEXT OF STORY TO FONMIN UNDER SECRETARY KHODR
MORNING MARCH 13. KHODR EXPRESSED APPRECIATION
FOR TEXT WHICH HE IS FORWARDING TO PRESIDENT IRYANI
AT LATTER' S REQUEST, AND PROVIDED DETAILS ON YARG
PLANS TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM.

2. ACTING FONMIN (MININT) AKWA AND KHODR MET AFTERNOON
MARCH 12 WITH IEG AMBASSADOR SIRAGE, WHO AGREED
IN PRINCIPLE TO JOINT IEG- YARG VISIT TO ZUQAR.
YARG HAD RESPONDED THAT THIS AGREEMENT WAS IN
ITSELF PROOF OF STORY' S FALSITY, BUT THAT YEMEN,
SECRET

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IN ORDER TO DEFEND ITSELF AGAINST RADICAL ARAB
PROPAGANDA ATTACKS, NEEDED TO SAY THAT IT HAD
ITSELF INSPECTED ISLAND.

KHODR SAID IT NOW PLANNED THAT JOINT TEAM WILL ACTUALLY LAND ON
ISLAND.

HE COMMENTED THAT TISVE' S REMARK ABOUT " MILITARILY POWERLESS
YEMEN" MADE VISIT DOUBLY NECESSARY. ALTHOUGH MATTER OF JOINT
STATEMENT

DISCUSSED, KHODR ANTICIPATED THAT YARG ALONE WOULD ISSUE UNILATERAL
STATEMENT OF DENIAL AFTER VISIT.

4. AKWA AND SIRAGE ARE MEETING MORNING MARCH 13 WITH PRESIDENT
IRYANI WHO HAS EXPRESSED STRONG INTEREST IN ZUQAR
ISSUE. KHODR EXPECTS DETAILS OF TEAM COMPOSITION,
TIMING AND TRANSPORTATION TO BE WORKED OUT AT
MEETING. YARG IS ANXIOUS TO CARRY OUT VISIT SOONEST
SO THAT IT CAN ISSUE ITS EYEWITNESS DENIAL WHILE
ARAB PUBLIC OPINION IS STILL FOCUSED ON ISSUE.

5. KHODR REITERATED YARG' S STRONG INTEREST IN
MAINTAINING GOOD RELATIONS WITH IEG. AKWA-
SIRAGE MEETING HAD BEEN MOST FRIENDLY AND
YARG WAS PLEASED WITH IEG' S COOPERATIVE
ATTITUDE.

5. ACCORDING TO KHODR, ADEN RADIO HAS NOT PICKED
UP STORY, BUT YARG EXPECTS " FULL TREATMENT"
IMMINENTLY.
CRAWFORD

NOTE BY OC/ T: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

SECRET

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** EXDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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